NTSB National Transportation Safety Board

NHTSA
Seat Belts on
School Buses
Public Meeting

Deborah A. P. Hersman
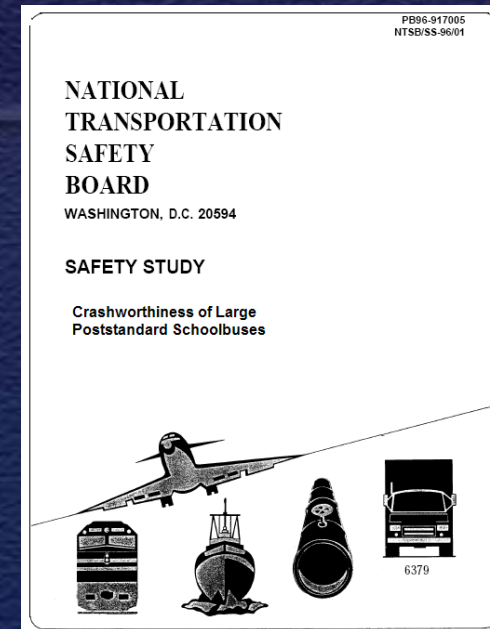
Member

July 11, 2007

NTSB's Role in Highway Safety

- Independent Federal Agency

- 5 Member Board

  - President appointed
  - Senate confirmed

- 400 Staff (29 in Highway)

- Investigates accidents in all modes of transportation

- Determine probable cause

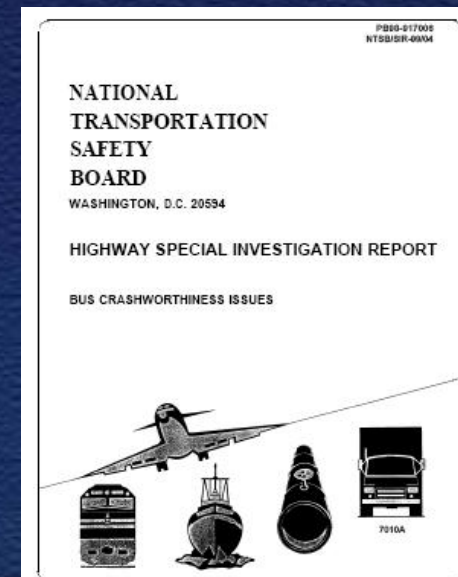- Issue recommendations

NTSB

School Bus Safety

- Safety Board sees some of the most dramatic and, unfortunately, fatal accidents.

- Side impacts with other large vehicles, tractor-trailer or train, or

- Fixed object or severe rollover

1987 Crashworthiness of Large Post-Standard School Buses

PB96-917005
NTSB/SS-96/01

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20594

SAFETY STUDY

Crashworthiness of Large Poststandard Schoolbuses

1999 Bus Crashworthiness Issues

PB90-917005
NTSB/SIR-99/04

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20594

HIGHWAY SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

BUS CRASHWORTHINESS ISSUES

Crashworthiness Findings

- School bus passengers that <u>remained within the compartment</u> were less likely to be injured

- Current compartmentalization is incomplete in that it does not protect passengers in <u>lateral impacts and rollovers</u>

NTSB

Monticello, MN

Monticello, Minnesota

Monticello, MN (animation)

Monticello, MN (animation)
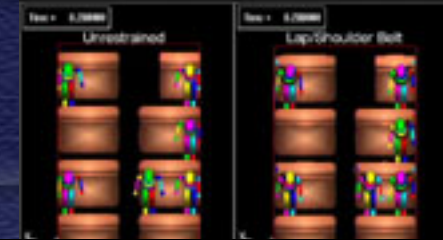
Monticello, Minnesota

Restrained Occupants
Lap/Shoulder Belts

1/10th Speed

Monticello, MN

Predicted Head Injuries

Unrestrained | Lap Belt | Lap/Shoulder Belt

3   4   5

Holmdel, NJ

Holmdel, New Jersey

NTSB

Holmdel, NJ

Holmdel, NJ (animation)

Holmdel, NJ

Crashworthiness Recommendations to NHTSA

- Develop crashworthiness performance standards and require newly manufactured school buses to have an occupant crash protection system that <u>retains passengers within the seating compartment</u> throughout the accident sequence for all accident scenarios.

School Bus Crashworthiness Added to Most Wanted List in Nov. 2006

NTSB

www.ntsb.gov